

Nights and Weeks, till at last She spoke to him, and I think with no little cause, Saying.

Jacky, I heard you say you were a Hair-Beater by Trade, not only so, but that you could clear my Tripe of the Hairs which were left on singed, and that you had a Rule to Measure and withal, but I do not find it so, and if you do not mend in short I will not work for you, without any releif of comfort from you, my thinks if you could do nothing all Day, you might afford me some Comfort at Night

Bridegroom. My Dear, I have been under a course of Physick this good while, which is the Principle Reason, so as you do not know my aggraviance, pray be Patient, and I warrant I will please you one time or other.

Author. But however to no purpose, Mrs. *Bride* waited 13 Weeks and then went to her Old Friend, and told her of her Husband's insufficiency or neglect, if not both, but before she approached this old Matron, her Modesty commanded her to conceal her agraviance but this old Woman marking her to be Discontented, ask'd her the Matter, which she kept in for a great while at least told her that her Husband had not in the least offered to perform his office, so that the old Matron very discreetly got him into one Mr. *Cullingham*, on Wednesday the 2d. of this Instant November, where She agreed with some Men to see if he were capable of Family-Duty or not, and so they openly expos'd her (for now comes the discovery) to be a Woman, in whose presence she owned it was Poverty brought her to it, alledging that Winter was coming in when the Bricklayers Trade would be bad, so she contrived that way, so the Old Woman turning to the Young Bride smiling, told her she had Married a Hair-Beater without any Tooles, in fine with the consent of the young Woman, she was permitted to make her escap, which was with all expedition performed.

But lastly, This unmasked Female-Bridegroom as she was walking in the Horse-Shoe Brew-House near Cole-yard in Holbourn, meet with an acquaintance, which sight made her hold down her Head, but her Friend being resolved to speak to her, asked how she did, and what maid her go in Mans Cloaths, and being asked if he knew her said, yes, and told before the whole Company, that she formerly lived at *Hamstead*, and had had two Children.

This being the Truth of this Remarkable Cheat, for such it was managed with that Dexterity and Ingenuity, that the like was scarcely ever Parrallized, nothing being wanting to immitate her contrary Sex but the Night-Performances, behaving herself in all Points, (except that) as like a Natural Man, as could possibly be imagined, but the unhappy Bride missing of her desired expectations, could do no less than dissolve the contract, alt ho^rtherby she has exposed her Reputation, to the various and critual Censures of the World.

F I N I S:

Licensed according to Order.

L O N D O N, Printed for J. Smith, near London-Bridge. 1699.

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1.2 Unfortunate Maid Cheated

Being a true and very pleasant Relation
Of one *Jone Fletcher*, of *High-Holbourn* (in
the Parish of *St. Giles's in the Fields*) a Tripe-
Maid, who instead of a Man, married a Wo-
man in Man's Apparel, who went by the Name of *Black Richard*,
alias *John Hilliard*, and Bedded together Thirteen Weeks before
it was discovered, which was found out on *Wednesday* the 2d. of
this Instant *November*, 1699.

As also an Account how this Female Bridegroom went Six Years in Man's
Apparel, and worked with one Mr. *Dorell* as a Labourer, against the *Cole-
yard-Gate* in *High-Holbourn*, with the manner how she courted several
others; as likewise of their preparation for the Wedding. Being asked
three several times in *St. Giles's Church*, and then was Married, where the
Bride now lives.

Also, the manner of the whole discovery by means of an acquaintance of
the Bridegroom's, who proved the Bridegroom to be of the Female kind,
and to have two Children, and how the Neighbours searcht her, and
found her to be a Woman. With the manner of her Confession.
With a pleasant Discourse betwixt the Bride and an Old Woman, her
Friend.

7. Nov. 1699.

Notwithstanding their has been various and pleasant Relations,
which have been Communicated to us, either by Antient and
Modern Authors (none I think) has afforded us more Com-
mical and Pleasant (tho' uncommon) Diversion then the particu-
lars following.

Bride. I have lived a considerable time (Neighbour in *New-
port-Market*, and taken great Pains for a Livelyhood, but now I
much Dissatisfied to see all the Young Women here abouts got
Husbands but my self, and being advanced to Years of Maturity,
thiik it is high time I had a Husband, or at least ways had some
Chitterling to joyn with my Tripe.

Neighbour. Why truly *Jone*: I think you are unwise if you do
not, for there is much Pleasure to be found in a Married Life, be-
sides

that it is pity it should be said that after you are Dead, you are gone to lead *Apes* in Hell, but I'll tell you, there is (our Neighbour) *John Hilliard*, who has worked in Labouring work this many Years, is a single Man, and I believe will make a good Husband for you.

Bride. Why truly I believe that would do very well, and I thank you for your advice, I wish he would make some pretence or other to come in my Company, for I have put up many Petitions for a Husband without any appearance of any answerable success, till I was almost in Dispair thereof, but now I hope my Nightly Devotion, hath by order from some lucky Star brought you into my Company, wherein I find great Satisfaction, and now my Zeal being more Ardently inclining that way, and not without just cause, I feel greater ease in my Body, then have had for some time past.

Neighbour. I do not know but that you have greater Reason so to do, for I heard (our Neighbour *John* say he intended to pay a Visit to you.

Jane. Well you are the Fortunate Woman I have discoursed with this many Day, now I hope my Virginity will be no more a burden to me, for let him come as soon as he will, I will consent to sell my Tripe for his Chitterling, then may I set in *Newport-Market* and Cry Tripes and Chitterlings as long as I live.

Author. But to return to my Story, fortune began to smile upon her, (seemingly) which hitherto had been adverse, for to her great Joy, this pretended Spark (tho' a she-one) as hereafter will appear, going by the Name of *John Hilliard*, came to her, and I suppose without abundance of Courtship, gain'd her consent. In short, the Marriage-Day was appointed, and this Young Damsel's Old Friend came to give her approbation upon the Bridegroom, the Old Woman, amongst many various Questions, asked him, (for you must understand she supposed, he was of the Masculine Gender) What Trade he was? Quoth he, Dear Mother, I am a Hair-Beater, for I have beat many a pound of Hair and Lime together for my Master *Dorrel*, and likewise can measure Ground out very well with a Rule I have, which none can perform a Building without, who are concerned in that famous Mystery of Architecture. The Old Woman smiled to hear this Spark talk of his Rule, and of being a Hair-beater to boot; inferring from thence without any scruple, that he was not without his Rule in course, and could at any time clear Tripe of the many Hairs which were subject to hang on the Tripe which were not sing'd off, he being a Hair-beater, tho'

tho' she was mistaken, as her acquaintance found true by sorrowful Experience afterwards.

But to return to the Wedding, they being asked, all things were provided for the Wedding, by her old Friend, who was chief Agent to accommodate the Bride Men and Maids, on the the first of *August* last: The prefixt day for the Marriage being come, there was nothing wanting but the Man in Black to tie the Knot, which the Bride as well as others suppos'd could not be untied. Now the man in Black being ready, they appeared (before him) in great splendor, to the great joy of Mrs. Bridegroom, and Mrs. Bride; but especially the latter being overwhelmed, as thinking of her supposed Husband's Trade, and the benefit she expected to receive at Night: then the Minister asking her the Question, Will you have this Man to be your Wedded Husband? (quoth she) answering hastily) Yes with all my Heart. All being over, they paid their Charges, and the Bride dropt the Parson a fine Curtsie in testimony of thanks, and withdrew; and after having been carousing & drinking together all the Afternoon, charging and discharging the Pots and Glasses, with a great deal of courage, conduct, and solution, till the whole Company was (in a manner) tipsie; however, the Night approaching, and the young Bride being desirous to take of the supposed pleasant Fruits of a married Bed, and made many dumb signs to be at it; so that it was accordingly made ready, and in fine, to Bed they were conveyed, with all Customary Ceremonies used in such like Affairs, as Sack-Poffet, throwing the Stocking, and what not, where I leave the loving couple, especially Mrs. Bride, to make the best of a bad Market, and to return to the rest of the Company, who were in their Cups, applauding the Bridegroom at a very extravagant rate, extolling him up to the Skies, not only for a brave airy, and brisk Young Man, but that he was accomplish'd for any Company.

But Morning being come, the whole Company Congratulated the two young Couple, with many wishes of Joy and Happiness and length of Days, upon which the Bride answered I thank you for your good Days wishes, I hope they will take effect, but if you had wished me happy Nights too, 'twould have been in vain, because I have mist it the first Night, the Old Woman cryed, Hush, hush, say no more, may be his Sences were Stupified with liquor, Come, come, Child, you must judge charitably, the worst luck to Night, the better to Morrow Night, It was served so my self, you must not condemn him for one Nights Omission, but it happened so several Nights.